

Assisting your student in career preparation

Here are 10 ways you can make a difference in your student's career preparation:

1. **Initiate conversations about career plans** - listen to his or her ideas and concerns without judging; provide opinions only when asked.
2. **Provide feedback on strengths you see** - this will help your student develop confidence and perhaps discover a strength they had not previously realized.
3. **Tell your student that grades count** - GPA is often a factor in securing internships, as well as graduate school admission. Employers often inquire about a student's GPA during a job interview.
4. **Encourage internships** - internships are excellent opportunities for students to "try on" careers. Employers love hiring college graduates who already have some professional experience.
5. **Support your student in study/travel abroad** - multi-cultural experience is viewed highly in today's global economy. SST continues to be perceived as a premier overseas educational experience by employers.
6. **Recommend your student gets involved** - on-campus clubs and teams, as well as voluntary service, can help your student develop skills like leadership, communication, and team-work, which employers are looking for.
7. **Teach networking** - offer your student the names and contact information for friends, neighbors, and colleagues whose work experience is related to his or her interests. Encourage informational interviews.
8. **Encourage part-time and summer jobs** - especially jobs related to your student's interests. This is another opportunity to test interests and develop skills.
9. **Be patient** - remember career planning takes times, especially when your student is in the early phases of self-assessment. Be patient when your student changes his or her mind between majors and career choices; offer support throughout the process.
10. **Recommend Career Services** - email your student a link to our web site or point out our office when you're on campus. Encourage him or her to contact us when you are unable to answer questions. Our goal is the same as yours - your student's personal success!